

The name of Deer Creek: originated with the first settlers of
Pocahontas County, many different names have been bestowed upon the branch
but "Deer Creek" is the name that has prevailed for a period of about 160 years

The first settlement on Deer Creek was made by John Warwick, and his
three sons ~~William~~ William Warwick, Andrew Warwick, and John Warwick Jr, which
was made about the year of 1765 some people fix the date at 1770.

The old original homestead was on the North West side of Deer Creek above
the Steel Bridge and the Cass road, opposite the conjunction of Deer Creek,
and the North Fork, after the settlement was made by John Warwick and family
an attack from the Indians was apprehended and the settlers determined to build
a fort as a defense of the infant settlement, which was planned by Jacob Warwick
who was making a settlement at what is now Dumore, and erecting a fort at that
place about the same time. The John Warwick ^{fort} on the Deer Creek, was circular in
form. and the roof was partly covered by sods and dirt to prevent fire from
the enemy, The white oak walls bristled with port holes and surrounded by a stockade
fence ^{made} an almost impregnable defense. This Fort was used as ^a home for some of the
settlers who often lived for weeks inside its walls. For many years it remained a
famous fort on the frontier, having withstood several Indian attacks.

The Fort was situated in the forks of Deer Creek and the North Fork, on an
elevation of ground that commanded a fine view of the surrounding country. The site
of the old Fort is situated in the west end of a field now owned by F. H. Warwick

The description of the Fort was told by the venerable Peter Warwick who was in
turn told
by his Grandfather William Warwick.

For a period of about 30 or 40 years, during the early settlement the branch
now known as Deer Creek was called: Warwicks Creek in honor of the Pioneer Warwick
and was quoted in the land records as Warwicks Creek a Branch of Greenbrier River.

When the pioneers were settling up the Deer Creek valley, or Warwicks Creek as it was then called, found the Deer to be so numerous that they^{were} considered a pest to the farmers, who had to farm on a small scale, only having small fields and patches planted, and the Deer would some times destroy a whole crop. There is a tradition that Jacob Runbaugh who lived upon the land now owned by Monroe Beard, did not have feed enough to winter his cow, and fed her on Deer meat, (It has since been conceded that a cow will eat dried venison ϕ)

And from the fact that the Deer were so numerous in the the country it was called Deer Creek. And to the Indians it was called by names that have long been forgotten, The Indians called it Ta-rin-ka, Wak-pa-dan. meaning Deer-Creek. and hence the name Deer Creek.

As we study into the names given to Deer Creek proper above the confluence of the North Fork and Deer Creek, and that of the Rosin Run the branch that flows into the North Fork South of Greenbank, it appears that the names have been applied improperly; and criss-crossed. Some of the older folks claim that Rosin Run was called Deer Creek: and the North Fork its North Branch, and Deer Creek proper was called Back Creek or Muddy Creek, which seems to be very reasonable, and some of the old land records give their local description in this particular respect.

But however the names as they exist at the present time, have gone down in the history of all the land records, and are so fixed that it will be a matter of impossibility to change the names back to their original meaning.

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~~GUM BRANCH~~ THE GUM BRANCH IS A

near and North of the Dummore Mineral Springs; this small Branch gives rise in what is locally known as Charleys Ridge, in the Lime Stone Section of the Hill-Neighborhood East of Dummore, It has an entire length of 3.5 miles, with a total fall of 625 feet with a rate of 178.5 feet per mile; and has a drainage basin area of 2.10 square miles; This Branch known as the Gum Spring Branch has many small intermittent streams, which are all situated in a Limestone Section and the land is all very productive, and some of the very best farms are situated in its water shed and its valley.

The Gum Branch received its name by the fact that that an old pioneer by the name of Gum lived for a time at an ice cold Spring which is near the Gum-Spring school House, now discontinued by the Board of Education.

DUNMORE SPRING BRANCH: The Durmore Spring Branch Branch , the Spring of which has been recently called the Reece Pritchard Spring , is located on the highway 0.8 mile South- East of Durmore is one of the largest artesian springs in Pocahontas County, comparing favorably with Minnehaha Springs in size.

This water emerges in two or more points in the Bossardville Limestone and contains principally the minerals of calcium, Magnesium, and Sulphur .

very little use is being made of this excellent flow of water of medicinal properties, save during the summer months when a very small portion is bottled and shipped for drinking purposes.

Analysis has been of the water by Chemists ; In Grains per gallon as follows

Calcium Sulphate-----	1.95
Calcium Carbonate -----	3.30
Magnesium Carbonate -----	1.21
Sulphur Trioxide -----	2.82
Total Solids-----	<u>9.28</u>
Loss on Ignition-----	3.85

This small Durmore Spring Branch in the length of .8 mile has a fall of about 16 feet. The flow of water is so strong that it has been developed and has run the Durmore Flower Mill about a hundre years;

This fine Spring and its facility for water power was the main instigation to bring about , the first settlement of the Durmore neighborhood by Jacob Warwick and Robert Sitlington which was perhaps about the year of 1766.

Mrs Hunter of Marlinton now owns the head Spring of the Durmore Branch and Swimming Pools have been erected of Stone and Concrete, also cabins and Rest Rooms have been built ; A Concrete monument of Powhatan the father of Indian Princess Pocahontas has been erected; a stone building has been erected in honor of the pioneer Jacob Warwick, who first owned the land.